PROLOGUE
TO THE
REVIV'D
ALCHEMIST.

THE *Alchemiſt*; Fire, breeding Gold, our *Theme*:
Here muſt no Melancholie be, nor Flegm.
Young *Ben*, not Old, writ this, when in his Prime,
Solid in Judgment, and in Wit ſublime.

The *Siſters*, who at *Theſpian* Springs their Blood
Cool with freſh Streams, All, in a Merry Mood,
Their wat'ry Cups, and Pittances declin'd,
At *Bread-ſtreet's Mer-maid* with our *Poët* din'd:
Where, what they Drank, or who plaid moſt the Rig,
Fame modeſtly conceals: but He grew big
Of this pris'd Iſſue; when a *Jovial* Maid,
His Brows beſprinkling with *Canarie*, ſaid.

Pregnant by Us, produce no Mortal Birth;
Thy active Soul, quitting the ſordid Earth,
Shall 'mongſt Heav'ns glitt'ring *Hieroglyphicks* trade,
And *Pegaſus*, our winged Sumpter, jade,
Who from *Parnaſſus* never brought to *Greece*,
Nor *Romane* Stage, ſo rare a Maſter-piece.

This Story, true or falſe, may well be ſpar'd;
The *Actors* are in queſtion, not the *Bard*:
How they ſhall humour their oft-varied Parts,
To get your Money, Company, and Hearts,
Since all Tradition, and like Helps are loſt.

Reading our Bill new paſted on the Poſt,
Grave Stagers both, one, to the other ſaid,
The ALCHEMIST? What! are the Fellows mad?
Who ſhall *Doll Common* Act? Their tender Tibs
Have neither Lungs, nor Confidence, nor Ribs.

Who *Face*, and *Subtle*? Parts, all Air, and Fire:
They, whom the *Authour* did Himſelf inſpire,
Taught, Line by Line, each Tittle, Accent, Word,
Ne're reach'd His Height; all after, more abſurd,
Shadows of fainter Shadows, whereſoe're
A *Fox* he pencil'd, copied out a *Bear*.

Encouragement for young Beginners ſmall:
Yet howſoe're we'll venture; have at All.
Bold Ignorance (they ſay) falls ſeldome ſhort
In *Camp*, the *Countrey*, *City*, or the *Court*.

Arm'd with the Influence of your fair Aſpects,
Our Selves we'll conquer, and our own Defects.
A thouſand Eyes dart raies into our Hearts,
Would make Stones ſpeak, and Stocks play well their Parts:
Some few Malignant Beams we need not fear,
Where ſhines ſuch Glory in ſo bright a Sphere.